

WI-344

c. 1892

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
Sharptown
Private

The Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is an intricately crafted Victorian dwelling that marks the corner of Main and Water streets in the center of Sharptown. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house features a variety of late nineteenth century elements that distinguish the asymmetrical exterior design. A turned post front porch stretches across the front and around to the south side, and the eave is enriched with sawn brackets and turned spindle decoration. Unusual to this particular house is the single-bay second floor porch that is supported by turned posts and features a sawn balustrade. The hip roof is decorated with a delicately sawn eave. True to late nineteenth century design, the gable ends are sheathed with a variety of fishscale shingles, which contrast with the plain horizontal weatherboards that cover the main body of the house. Bay windows are found on the north and south sides, and a two-story ell-shaped service wing extends to the rear.

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr., a prominent Sharptown merchant, is credited with financing construction of this house around 1892 when he acquired this lot in September of that year. The property transferred for \$300, which suggests it was improved in some manner. A structure is identified at this location on the Sharptown map that was included in the Wicomico County section of the 1877 atlas. At the time of Samuel J. Cooper, Sr.'s death in 1924, he devised his house to his daughters, Mary E. and Lena E. Cooper.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-349

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-349

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 299 Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Sharptown ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bruce W. and Iva Lou Forster

street & number 299 Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code Maryland 21861

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 414
liber 1334

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 791

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-349

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is located at 299 Main Street in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house stands at the intersection of Main and Water streets. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped, gable-front Victorian house faces southwest with the principal roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1892, the side hall/parlor plan house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The decorative shingles are mainly reserved to the gable ends. Covering the steeply pitched roof is a layer of green asphalt shingles with open soffits and exposed rafter ends. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story ell-shaped rear wing.

The southwest (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch supported on turned posts and enriched with sawn eave decoration. The front entrance is enhanced by a molded four-panel door and transom, and the adjacent window frames have a small molded cornice. The porch extends around the south side of the house. Unusual to this porch is a second floor covered porch that shelters the center bay. Built into the first floor porch roof is a floor, post and railing of a single bay porch covered by a hip roof. Turned posts support the roof and a sawn baluster railing stretches between posts. The edge of the roof is enhanced with a decorative sawn fascia. The second floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows trimmed with small cornice moldings. The gable end is covered with bands of fishscale shingles. Centered within the gable are paired single pane sash windows. Fixed in the peak of the extended eave is a decorative trim embellished with a diagonal crisscross pattern of woodwork. The lower end of the eave has a supportive stick bracket. Extending through the center of the roof is an internal brick stove chimney finished with a corbeled cap. Also distinguishing the roof ridge is a system of metal lightening rods with glass globes.

The south side of the main block is an asymmetrical elevation with the gable end of the tee plan juxtaposed against the side elevation of the front section. The turned post porch wraps around to fill the corner of the tee-plan. A single story bay window extends from the gable end. The exterior finishes remain consistent with the front of the house.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, ell-shaped service wing, which is extended on its south side by a Tuscan columned side porch. Sheltered by the porch is a partially glazed door and a two-over-two sash window. A recently built exterior brick chimney rises against the gable end.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-349

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1892 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Samuel J. Cooper, Sr., a prominent Sharptown merchant, is credited with financing construction of this house around 1892 when he acquired this lot in September of that year. The property transferred for \$300, which suggests it was improved in some manner. A structure is identified at this location on the Sharptown map that was included in the Wicomico County section of the 1877 atlas. At the time of Samuel J. Cooper, Sr.'s death in 1924, he devised his house to his daughters, Mary E. and Lena E. Cooper.¹

The Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is a well preserved example of Victorian domestic architectural design with its variety of exterior siding and turned decoration. It qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and historical significance.

¹ Wicomico County Register of Wills, JWD 2/36, probated 11 June 1924.

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Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
299 Main Street
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 400, Parcel 414

1334/791

James W. Stiles
B. Janie Stiles

to

4/20/1993

Bruce W. Forster
Iva Lou Forster

A J S 1078/830

E. Ramona Austin, formerly E. Ramona Spicer

to

9/16/1986

James W. Stiles
B. Janie Stiles

A J S 992/572

Don Edward Spicer
E. Ramona Spicer

to

1/26/1983

E. Ramona Spicer

A J S 822/783

Eugene C. Morley
Evalyn B. Morley

to

5/24/1974

Don Edward Spicer
E. Ramona Spicer

WI-349
 Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
 299 Main Street
 Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
 Chain of title continued

JWTS 764/562 Lloyd Brown
 Sadie M. Brown

to

6/27/1972 Eugene C. Morley
 Evalyn B. Morley

JWTS 673/351 George B. Tarpley
 Mary E. Tarpley

to

5/29/1968 Lloyd Brown
 Sadie M. Brown

JWTS 635/264 J. Laurence Cooper
 Sarah H. Cooper of Sussex County, Delaware

to

7/25/1966 George B. Tarpley
 Mary E. Tarpley

Being a part of the land conveyed unto Samuel J. Cooper by
 the two following deeds:

1. From Rigsby T. Wright, 11/22/1873, TF, Jr. 3/444
2. From Levin T. Cooper , 9/10/1892, JTT 9/235

The land hereby conveyed being also land of which Samuel
 J. Cooper died seized and possessed and which under his Last
 Will and Testament admitted to probate, JWD 2/36, he devised
 unto his daughters Mary E. Cooper and Lena E. Cooper as
 tenants in common the said Lena E. Cooper, late of Wicomico

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Page 3

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
 299 Main Street
 Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
 Chain of title continued

County, having died seized and possessed of an undivided
 ½ interest therein, which she, under her Last Will and Testament
 JAH 8/142, she devised to her sister Mary E. Cooper, now
 deceased, for life with remainder to her nephew J. Laurence
 Cooper under her Last Will and Testament, JAH 8/425

JTT 9/235

2. Levin T. Cooper
 Susie W. Cooper of Sharptown

to

9/10/1892

Samuel J. Cooper

\$ 300 Lot No. 8 1/3 acre

Somerset County
 Land Record

2. Nancy E. Bennett

to

Levin T. Cooper

Somerset County
 Land Record
 WP 5/352

2. John B. Taylor and Mary Taylor

to

3/16/1850

Nancy E. Bennett

\$50.00 Lot No. 8 on the east side of the County road
 leading through the village of Sharptown

“Royal Exchange”

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Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
299 Main Street
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

T.F., Jr. 3/444

1. Rigsby J. Wright
Edith E. Wright

to

11/22/1873

Samuel J. Cooper

\$ 2,000 Lot No. 7 1/3 acre

T.F., Jr. 2/286

1. John D. Johnson, Sheriff

to

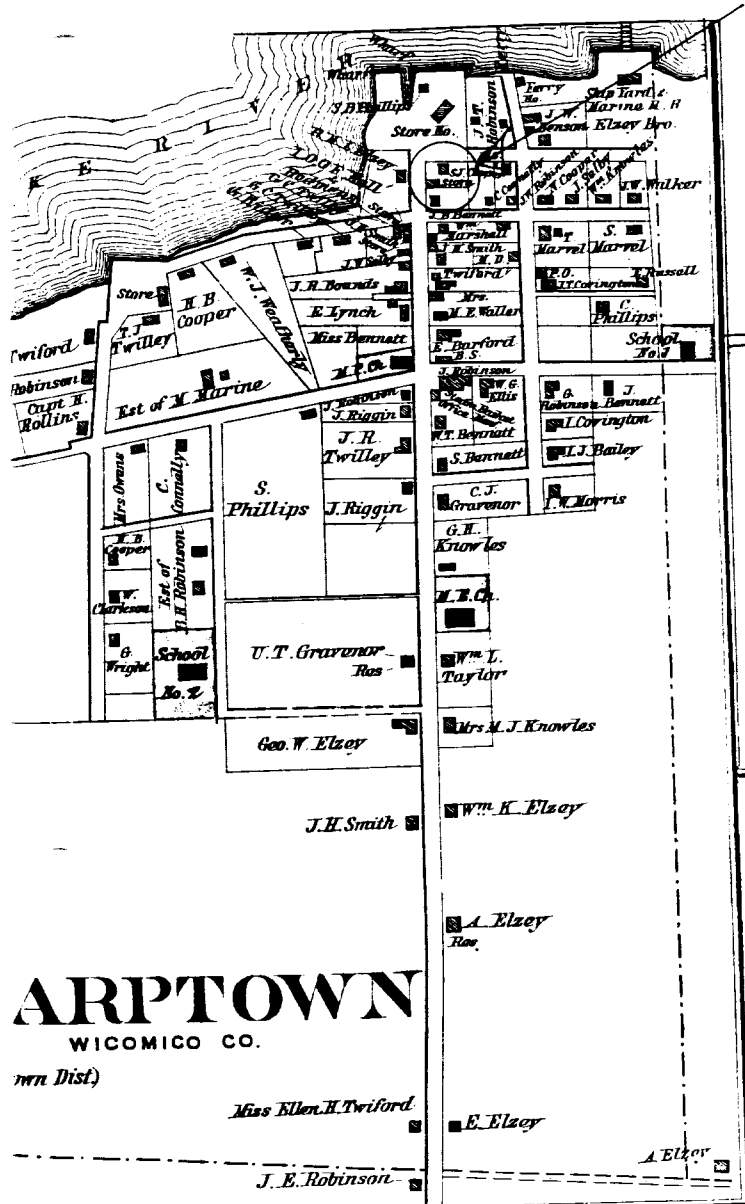
1/11/1871

Rigsby T. Wright

One house and lot situated in SharpTown, Wicomico County, Maryland containing about 1/3 of an acre of land more or less and at the time of said sale in the occupancy of said Wright being the same lot which the said James T. Phillips purchased of Daniel F. Ewell and which the said Ewell purchased from Hamilton B. Burnett

WI-344
Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House
Sharptown

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



ARPTOWN

WICOMICO CO.

non Dist.)

REF.

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and a Gen-

Goods, Gro-

one and all

3, Groceries,

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and all Goods

Manufacturers of

each Baskets
Modern &c

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Surgeon.

1000

BARREN CREEK BUSINESS REFERENCES.

LEVIN M. WILSON, Farmer and Tax Collector
for Wicomico Co.

for Wicomico Co.
THOMAS B. TAYLOR, Dealer in Dry Goods,
 Groceries and all Kinds of Goods usually kept in
 a Country Store.

J. B. ARMSTRONG, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Notions, &c.
L. M. VINCENT, Wheelwright. All Works in

E. S. BOSTON, Blacksmith. All Work in his line

JOHN H. BACON, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Notions,

J. W. PHILLIPS, Proprietor of "Barren Creek Springs Hotel."

W. C. MARSTERS, Physician and Surgeon.
W. J. WEATHERLY, Carpenter, Contractor and
Builder.
THOS. J. WINDSOR, Carpenter, Contractor and

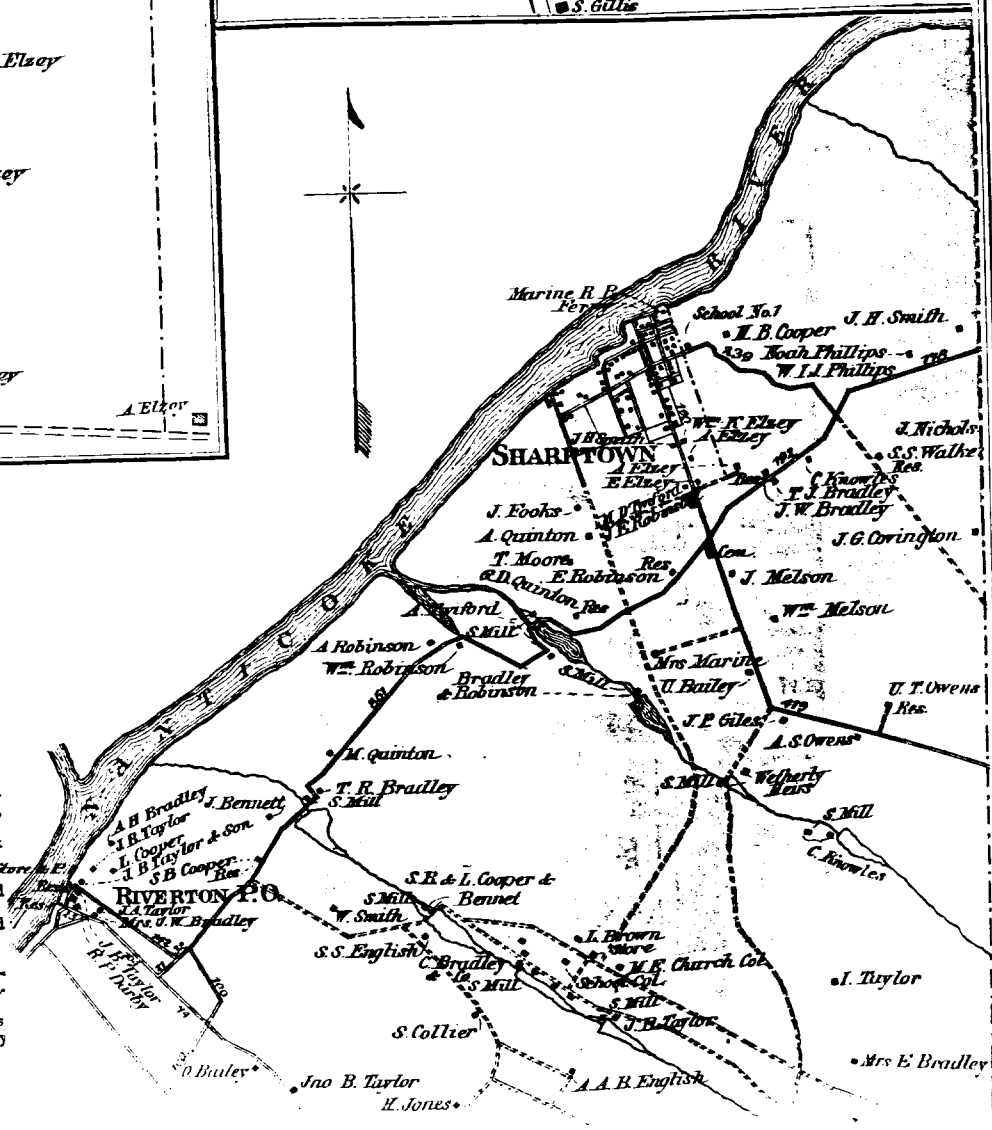
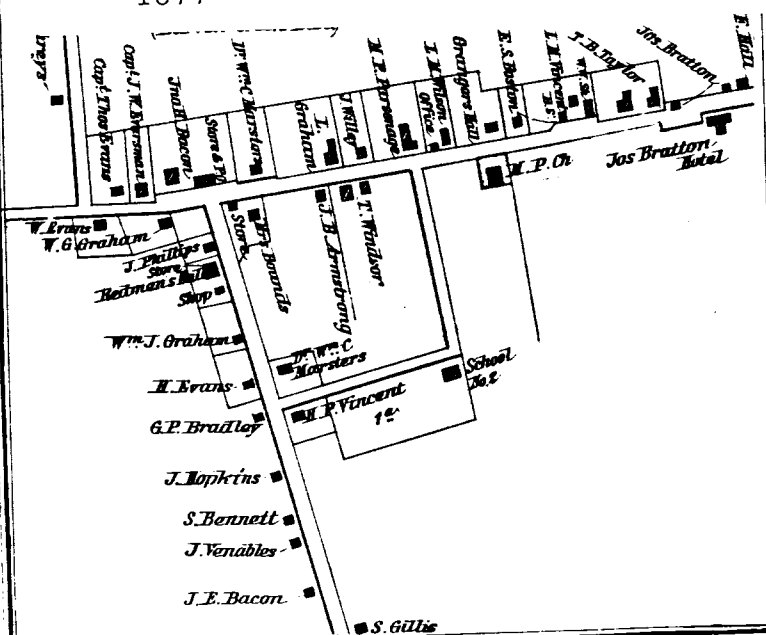
A. E. ACWORTH, Teacher and Farmer.
A. H. CALLAWAY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries.

J. W. BRADLEY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries

Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country store.

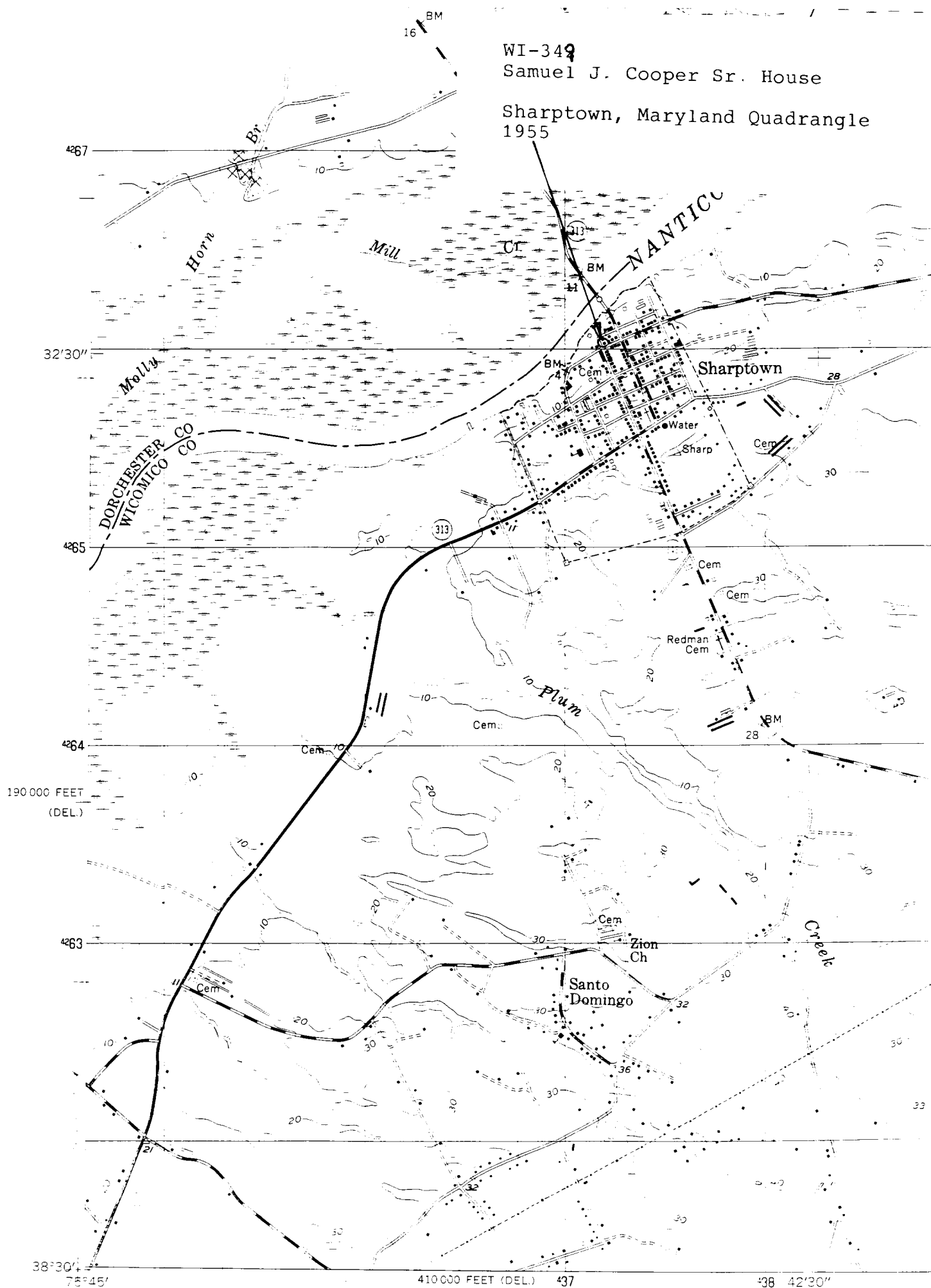
ISAAC L. ENGLISH. Teacher and Farmer.
JOHN M. BOUNDS. School Commissioner.

ALBERT M. BOUNDS, School Commissioner.
ROBERT L. LLOYD, Carpenter.
ROBERT W. HOWARD, Moon-Keeper.



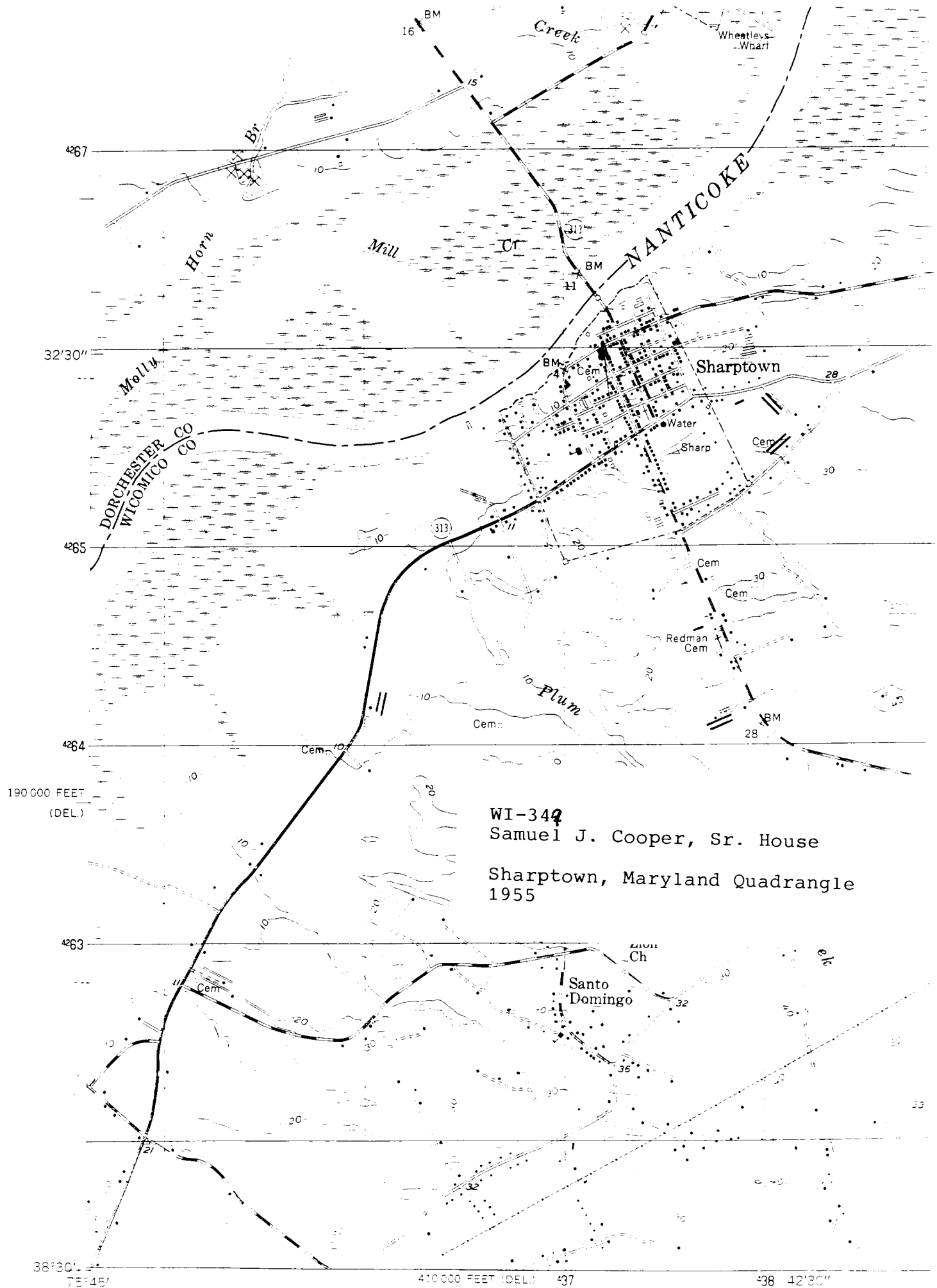
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Samuel J. Cooper Sr. House

Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle
1955



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

1955



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey



W1 = 349

Spencer, Andrew, SR 14952

Superior, Andrew, SR 14952, 2

Superior, Andrew, SR 14952, 3

W1 = 349

W1 = 349

1 2 3



W 1-389

Barrow, Central Alaska

July 1955, Williams, Owen 2 3

Distance = 6000 ft

Y 85, Low Temperature, 1000 ft

Net 1/2 inch, 1000 ft, 1000 ft

2 2 2